

Message Text

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C O N F I D E N T I A L ATHENS 8049

E.O. 11652: GDS
TAGS: PORG,UNSC, CY, TU, PGOV
SUBJ: MFA DIRECTOR GENERAL'S COMMENTS ON CYPRUS DEVELOPMENTS

1. IN TOUR D'HORIZON AUGUST 30 WITH MFA DIRECTOR GENERAL FOR POLITICAL AFFAIRS JOHN TZOUNIS, WHO HAS BEEN ON MONTH-LONG VACATION, SUBJECT OF CYPRUS DEVELOPMENTS AROSE. TZOUNIS COMMENTED THAT WHAT TURKISH CYPRIOTS WERE DOING IN VAROSHA AND THEIR THREATS TO TAKE FURTHER ACTION IF INTERNATIONAL COMMUNITY RECOGNIZED KYPRIANOU AS PRESIDENT OF ALL CYPRUS WERE STILL OTHER INDICATIONS OF THEIR UNWILLINGNESS TO SEEK COMPROMISE SOLUTION TO CYPRUS SITUATION AND OF THEIR ATTEMPT TO EXPLOIT DEATH OF MAKARIOS TO SOLIDIFY THEIR INTRANSIGENT POSITION. TZOUNIS THOUGHT GREEK CYPRIOTS WERE RIGHT TO TAKE VAROSHA MATTER TO SECURITY COUNCIL WHICH WAS ONLY UN BODY CAPABLE OF EFFECTIVE ACTION TO STOP IT. HE DREW CONTRAST BETWEEN PRESIDENT CARTER'S PUBLIC DENUNCIATION OF ISRAELIS FOR ALLOWING SETTLEMENTS IN WEST BANK AND APPARENT UNWILLINGNESS OF USG PUBLICLY TO OPPOSE TURKISH CYPRIOT "COLONIZATION" OF VAROSHA.

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2. I COUNTERED THAT WE WERE FIRMLY OPPOSED TO TURKISH CYPRIOT EXPANSION INTO VAROSHA, HAD MADE OUR OPPOSITION UNMISTAKABLY CLEAR TO ALL PARTIES, AND WERE MAKING STRENUOUS EFFORTS BEHIND THE SCENES TO STOP THAT EXPANSION AND PREVENT OTHER TURKISH CYPRIOT MOVES WHICH WOULD MAKE MEANINGFUL NEGOTIATIONS LESS LIKELY. IF WE SEEMED RELUCTANT TO SEE SECURITY COUNCIL GET INVOLVED IN

VAROSHA PROBLEM, IT WAS NOT BECAUSE OF ANY OBJECTION TO SUBSTANCE OF MATTER BUT BECAUSE WE THOUGHT IT WAS A BAD TACTIC WHICH PROBABLY WOULD HAVE OPPOSITE EFFECT FROM THAT INTENDED, WOULD MAKE IT MORE DIFFICULT FOR TURKISH CYPRIOTS TO BACK OFF, AND IN GENERAL WOULD MAKE IT HARDER TO RETURN TO FRUITFUL NEGOTIATIONS. WE CONTINUE TO BELIEVE THAT BEST HOPE FOR ACCEPTABLE SOLUTION TO CYPRUS PROBLEM WAS GOOD-FAITH INTERCOMMUNAL NEGOTIATIONS SPURRED ON BY U.S. AND MAINLAND GREEKS AND TURKS, AND THAT SUCH A PROCESS IS NOT HELPED BY PUBLIC RECRIMINATIONS.

3. ASKED HOW HE VIEWED INTERNAL CYPRUS DEVELOPMENTS, TZOUNIS REPLIED THAT DESPITE CONSENSUS TO ACCEPT KYPRIANOU AS INTERIM PRESIDENT WITHOUT A CONTEST, QUESTION OF SUCCESSION TO MAKARIOS WAS FAR FROM SETTLED. THERE WERE MANY AMBITIOUS POLITICIANS EAGER TO BECOME PRESIDENT IN FEBRUARY AND GOG INTENDS SCRUPULOUSLY TO AVOID PUSHING OR BECOMING IDENTIFIED WITH ANY OF THEM. CARAMANLIS, HE SAID, WANTS TO PLAY CONSTRUCTIVE ROLE IN CYPRUS AFFAIRS BUT DOES NOT WANT TO BE PUT IN POSITION HE WAS IN AT TIME OF LONDON/ZURICH AGREEMENTS WHEN HE HAD TO TAKE GREAT DEAL OF DOMESTIC HEAT FOR PUSHING GREEK CYPRIOTS INTO A SETTLEMENT WHICH DID NOT GIVE THEM ALL THEY EXPECTED.
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